

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 5-11 are amended to delete the hydroxyl group containing compounds as stabilizers. Claim 11 is further amended to delete “phenol, cresol, 2,6-di-butyl-p-cresol, and aminomethylphenol.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohno *et al.* (US 7,138,553, hereafter referred to as Ohno).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for the purification of 1,1-dichloroethane comprising bringing 1,1-dichloroethane containing a compound having a nitro group ~~and/or a hydroxyl group~~ as a stabilizer into contact with zeolite having an average pore size of 3.4 to 11 Å and/or a carbonaceous adsorbent having an average pore size of 3.4 to 11 Å in a liquid phase to reduce the stabilizer.

Ohno discloses the use of hydroxyl group containing compounds for use as a stabilizer, but does not teach the use of nitro group containing compounds. Thus, Ohno does not teach or suggest every element of claim 1 as required under §103.

In addition, it would neither be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art nor would one of ordinary skill in the art expect the molecular sieves disclosed in Ohno (i.e., between 3.4 to 11 Å) would work for the nitro-containing group with the same efficiency, since the efficacy of the molecular sieves would depend on the size of the molecule to be removed.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and 8 is patentable over Ohno.

Furthermore, claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and thus are patentable at least for the same reasons as claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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